



# AGC/WSDOT ROADWAY TEAM

## MINUTES for Meeting of May 9, 2003

AGC Office, Tacoma WA

### Attending:

Frank Scarsella

Joe Spink

Ray Arnold

Bill Grady

Jim Spaid

Ken Stone

Bob Glenn

Gordon Olson

Mark Maurer

### Minutes of March 20, 2003 Meeting

Distributed copies and no added comments made.

### Old Business

Minutes of Other Team Meetings – The minutes of the April 11, 2003, meeting of the Admin Team were distributed. Jim Spaid noted that the Admin Team is still evaluating the lump sum traffic control specification that will be incorporated in a total of 16 projects this year. Jim also noted that the Admin Team would be working on issues relating to progress schedules and insurance.

Minutes for the WAPA/WSDOT Joint Task Force held on February 27, 2003, were distributed.

Meeting notes from various industry/WSDOT teams may be viewed at the State Construction Office website at the following address:

<http://www.wsdot.wa.gov/biz/construction/Default.cfm>

### Retaining Wall Specifications – Section 6-11, 9-03, 9-10, 9-33, and GSPs

Jim reported that there has been no opportunity to move these specifications forward since the last team meeting. This will stay on the agenda for future review.

Fuel Cost Adjustment Provisions – Jim Spaid asked if there was anything new from inquiries made by Frank Scarsella and Bill Grady regarding an AGC position on fuel cost adjustments. Bill Grady had sent copies of an Arizona DOT specification for cost adjustments. Nothing seemed to be forthcoming from AGC, and fuel costs seemed to be declining, making this less of an issue.

Trench Excavation – 7-08.3(1)A and 7-10.3(7) – At this last team meeting, it was noted that there was a difference in the specifications for water main construction and sewer construction in the length of trench that could be left open each day ahead of the pipe

laying operation. Some discussion has taken place within WSDOT but no action will be taken pending discussion with APWA. Local agencies tend to do most of the waterline work. They need an opportunity for input. This will remain on the agenda until then.

## **New Business**

### Section 5-04 – Asphalt Concrete Pavement

Jim Spaid distributed a copy of a revised Section 5-04. A task group consisting of industry and WSDOT has been working on updating this section of the Standard Specifications. The goal for this update has been to eliminate as many of the older prescriptive specifications as we could, and begin to incorporate the provisions of Superpave.

Comments from Roadway Team members included concern for local agency work and private sector work.

### Update on Landscape Issues

Mark Maurer, the State Landscape Architect, noted that new Standard Plans are in review that provide design details for several erosion control best management practices (BMPs). Some of these BMPs have specifications that may need to be amended. Mark distributed preliminary copies of Standard Plans I-4 through I-14. Comments were made that the spacing requirement of check dams seemed small, particularly for slopes that were steep. Mark indicated the HQ Design had also noted this and there may be some change as a result.

The concept of lump sum payment of landscaping was discussed. Mark noted that several projects in North Central Region had successfully used that method of payment. Use of lump sum payment has some advantages in reducing the amount of bookkeeping required by both the contractor and the project office.

Plant establishment periods have been the subject of numerous discussions. Lengthy plant establishment periods require a large proportion of record keeping well beyond the end of the major contract work. It also ties up contractor retainage and WSDOT funds. Mark noted there are a number of methods used in various regions to deal with plant establishment and the care necessary to optimize plant survivability. Some wetland mitigation sites are requiring up to 10 years of plant establishment. Mark noted the establishment of the “small works roster”, which sets up a procedure for specialty contractors to be available for projects under \$200,000. Olympic Region has established a restoration crew (state forces) to deal with plant establishment in wetland mitigation sites. Crews from Department of Corrections are utilized for plant establishment in some regions. Where possible, there is an attempt to separate landscaping from highway construction projects.

### West Nile Virus and Worker Safety

Ken Stone led a discussion relating to the West Nile virus. There has been media attention given to this disease, and WSDOT has begun developing a series of preventive measures that will benefit WSDOT workers and adjacent properties. The planning strategies include protection, surveillance and control.

Protection calls for workers to wear long sleeve clothing and use DEET based insect repellent when working in areas where mosquitoes may be present. Surveillance

includes being aware of West Nile Virus indicators such as dead crows, jays, ravens and magpies. There will be certain level of monitoring of ponds and other standing water for signs of growing mosquito populations. Control will be done, working with health authorities, by applying larvicides to suspected mosquito breeding areas.

None of the contractors was aware of an AGC initiative to inform construction workers. There was some uneasiness about raising this as an issue to contractor forces since most healthy, working age folks are not considered to be at great risk of serious illness from the disease.

#### Innovation in Concrete

Jim Spaid provided some draft specification changes relating to concrete barrier and precast catch basins. WSDOT has been approached by fabricators to try concrete mixes that are not currently acceptable under current specifications. First was a request to use fiber reinforced concrete in the fabrication of Type 1 Catch Basins. The use of fiber reinforcement allows a small reduction in the amount of reinforcing steel required, and better accommodates the method the fabricator uses to cast (dry pack) the catch basin. There was concern that the fiber reinforcement makes it more difficult to break out the knockouts. Jim Spaid noted that WSDOT had tested a catch basin to determine that there would not be too much damage in removing the knockouts. There is a minimum amount of reinforcing steel that must be installed to minimize that damage.

The second request was to utilize self-compacting concrete (SCC). SCC is a fast setting concrete with a blend of admixtures that makes the mix flowable without allowing segregation. The fabrication process is enhanced by reducing the noise level in the shop from vibrators and reducing the number of folks needed for casting the products. WSDOT agreed to try the SCC concept on precast concrete barriers.

#### Wood Posts – Section 9-16.2(3)

Jim Spaid distributed copies of a specification change regarding wood fence posts. There needed to be some clarification to the current specification. The change provides clarification that Western Red Cedar fence posts do not require preservative treatment.

#### Other Items

A couple of topics were discussed that should be put on the list for future discussion. We had discussed doing a review of the Structure Excavation Class B specifications, but were distracted by the MSE Wall specification review. The backfilling of trenches with poor or unsuitable material is an issue that perhaps needs clarification. Another topic is looking for consistency in being able to substitute aggregates for different situations. The example was given that crushed surfacing base course could be used in lieu of gravel borrow. Are there ways to help identify, in the contract, what materials might be acceptable as a substitute for others?

### **Other Business**

#### *Discussion Topics*

The following list of topics will be kept as part of the minutes and future agendas to indicate the items that have surfaced as issues for discussion by the team. As each issue is addressed, it may be removed from the list. As new issues are raised, they will be added to the list as a reminder of the things that need discussion:

{Note: Issues that are added will now include the date (11/30/00) they were included on the list so the team can track their longevity}

- Galvanizing of fence products – review of current specs for consistency.
- Shoulder Rock - further discussion of method of payment.
- Smoothness Specification for ACP - this is an issue of information. A subcommittee of the APAW/WSDOT Joint Task Force is working on the specifics of this issue.
- Longitudinal Wedge Joint
- Roller Speeds
- Testing Storm Sewer Pipe - recent changes in the testing requirements for HDPE pipe have increased the length of time for testing.  
(5/24/01) - What is the background for those changes?  
(9/20/01) - Discussed the duration of the test. Bill G. said why hold it so long when you know within the first few minutes if you have a leak and thus a failing pipe.
- Signal Detector Loops - Suggested the number of bid items could be reduced by bidding loops per each rather than separate bid items for each type of set (for instance, R1, R2, R3, etc. for loop sets of 1, 2 or 3 loops).
- Traffic Control Devices –NCHRP 350
- Paint Applications – What is the time required between the application (Std Spec Section 8-22)
- Budget Scenario – what is the outlook for the upcoming biennium? (3/20/03)
- Structure Excavation Class B – backfilling trenches (5/9/03)
- Aggregate Substitution (5/9/03)

### **Next Meeting**

June 19, 2003. The meeting will be held at the Tacoma AGC office beginning at 8:00am.